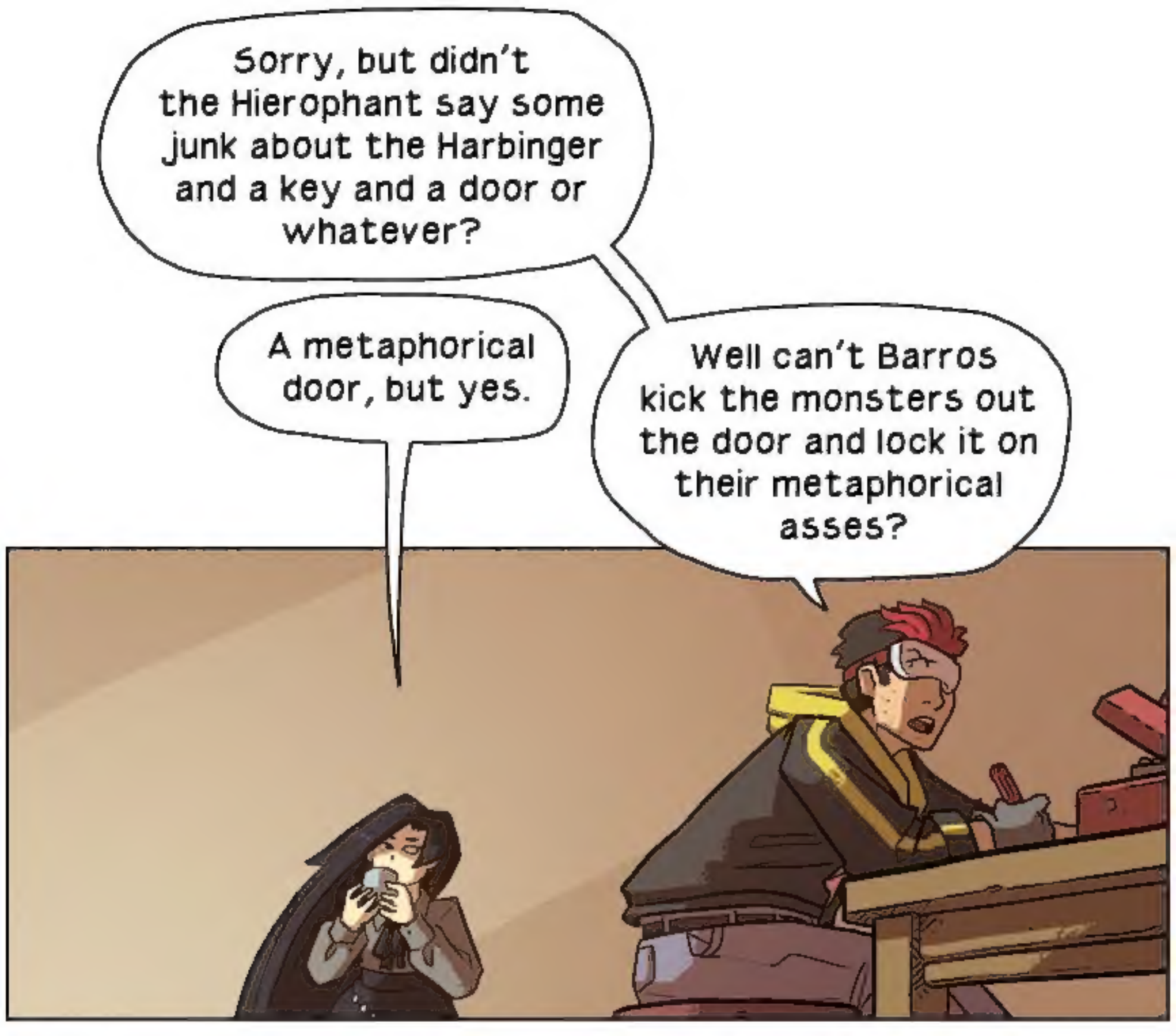
THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER


Sorry, but didn't the Hierophant say some junk about the Harbinger and a key and a door or whatever?
A metaphorical door, but yes.
Well can't Barros kick the monsters out the door and lock it on their metaphorical asses?

It's not like someone wrote a ***book*** on this, dude.
Uh I bet you the Hierophant absolutely did write a book on this.

Well I haven't read it.

Like... I can feel this... like this *buzzing* all around us. This crowded, squirming pulse.
And I could... I think I could manipulate it. Grab it. *Rip* it *apart*. But I have no idea what would happen if I did.
Hmm then yeah. Probably don't do that.

Clearly something else is manipulating that firmament.
Months ago, I met with the Hierophant in his home. He had this... *creature* pinned to his ceiling. I hadn't a notion what it could be at the time.

Now?

Now I have a clue.

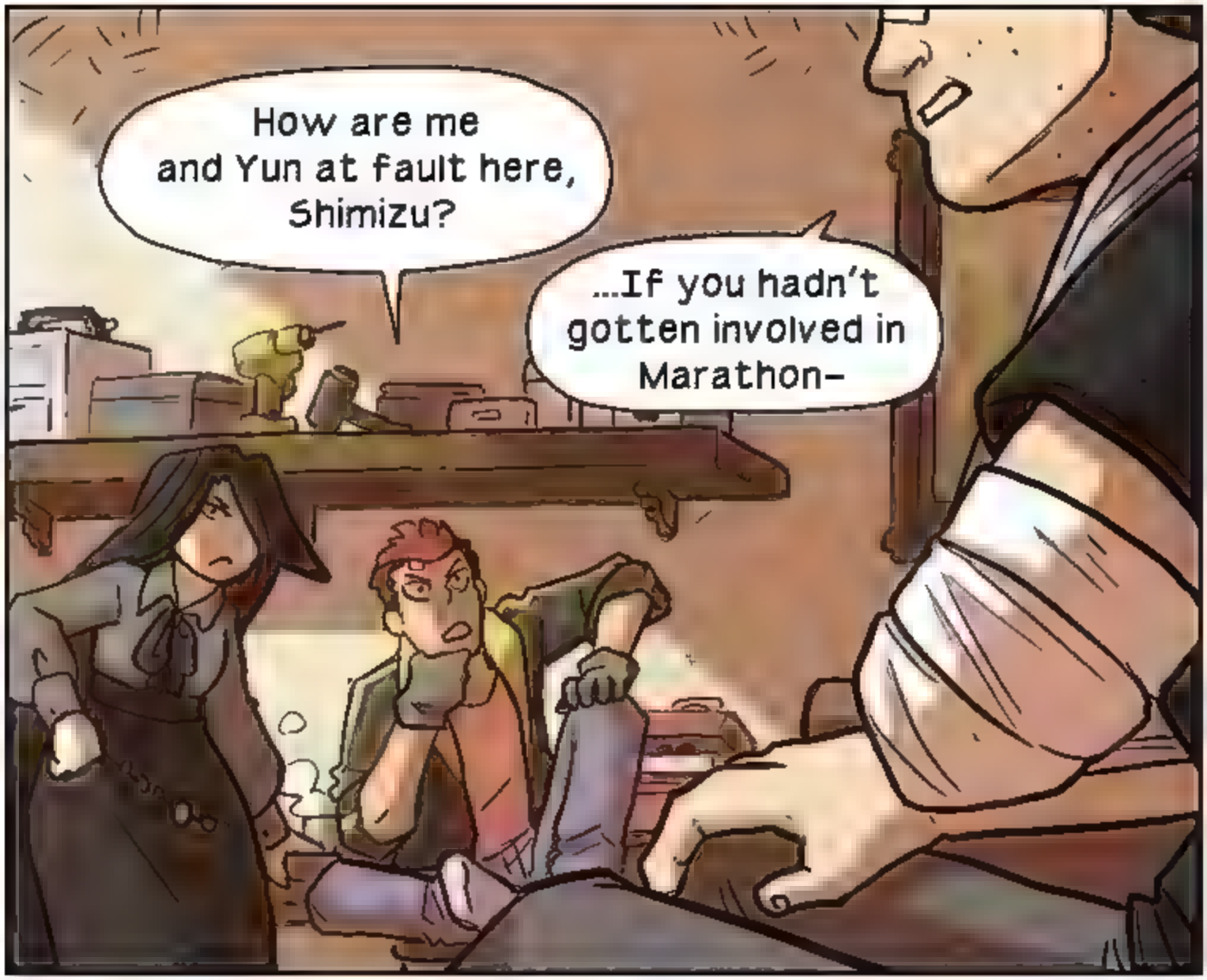
I believe it's what's holding this "door" open. I believe it's what's letting spirits flood through. And I believe that if it dies... then that flood returns to a trickle.
But I think those already through are here to stay.
Woah woah woah!

But there's *thousands* of new monsters, Yun!
There-- that's not really the best we got, is it?

It's...
It's a fighting chance, at least.

...
Right then.
Show me on a map where he lives, and I'll end this myself. Cause I'm not working with the Hierophant's hired killers.

I give you a place to lie low and you-- No. That's fine.
Having you out of my safehouse would be just lovely.
Hey now. We need to work together on this. Yes, they're killers and yes they worked with him and helped cause all this, but besides maybe Atlas we're the only four with the information needed to act. To do *something*.
Okay, hold up.

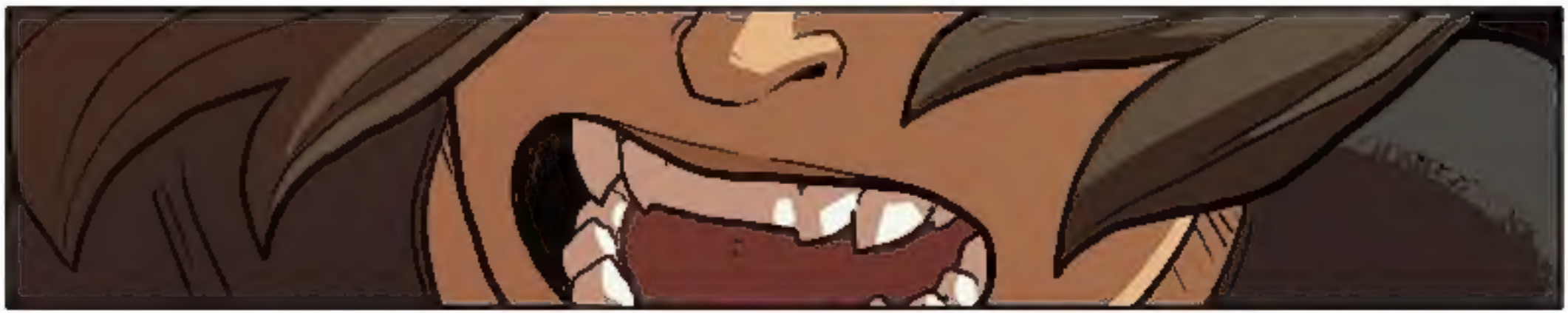

How are me and Yun at fault here, Shimizu?
...If you hadn't gotten involved in Marathon-

If we'd not "gotten involved" the Reliquary would still be in an Atlas vault somewhere! You two'd be outta luck!
And if Marco had not gone back for you. *Twice.* You'd be so very dead, Verdant.
You're the ones who got what you wanted, and the result is the freakin' apocalypse!

This is no apocalypse.
Well apparently you'd know, hm?
HHH! What I mean is I can kill these beasts all damned day!
They're not important!

Now point me where I'm going!
SPIRIT BOMB

I'll tear apart the creature causing this!
The Hierophant!
Atlas!



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